

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer capable of determining plural components of ~~a sample~~ samples by using independent reagents for ~~the~~ respective components of said samples, in which said analyzer is provided with a sampling mechanism having a sampling probe that dispenses the samples to reaction vessels and a mechanism for pipetting plural kinds of reagents with a same reagent pipetting probe from a reagent supply to the reaction vessels, said reaction vessels holding a reaction solution of said samples and said reagents that is analyzed, and a means for washing at least the reagent pipetting probe, and in order to prevent occurrence of errors of determination due to cross-contamination occurring among the reagents, the analyzer is provided with a function to set determination conditions for judging the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents and to make automatic judgment of the combination of items involving the cross-contamination,

wherein in order to prevent the occurrence of errors of determination due to generation of new contamination by variation of ~~the state of the apparatus including~~ the state of the washing means, the analyzer makes judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination for combinations of the reagents, memorizes the judgment result in relation to the reagent combinations, compares the judgment result with the judgment result ~~those of the previous of previously made judgments for the same reagent combinations;~~ and when these results differ more than a predetermined amount~~certain degree~~, judges that the ~~state of the apparatus including~~ the state of the washing means has changed, and indicates it to the user.

2. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer capable of determining plural components of ~~a sample~~ samples by using independent reagents for ~~the~~ respective components of said samples, in which said analyzer is provided with a sampling mechanism having a sampling probe that dispenses the samples to reaction vessels and a mechanism for

pipetting plural kinds of reagents with a same reagent pipetting probe and means for washing at least the reagent pipetting probe from a reagent supply to the reaction vessels, said reaction vessels holding a reaction solution of said samples and said reagents that is analyzed, and in order to prevent the occurrence of errors of determination due to cross-contamination occurring among the reagents, the analyzer is provided with a function to set determination conditions for judging the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents and to make automatic judgment of the combination of items involving the cross-contamination,

wherein in order to prevent the occurrence of errors of determination due to generation of new contamination by variation of ~~the state of the apparatus including~~ the state of the washing means, the analyzer makes judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination for combinations of the reagents, memorizes the judgment results~~its result~~, conducts judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination in parallel with the determination of components of the samples, compares the judgment result with the judgment result ~~those of the previous judgments~~of previously made judgments for the same reagent combinations, and when these results differ more than a predetermined amount~~certain degree~~, judges that the state of ~~the apparatus including the state of~~ the washing means has changed, and indicates it to the user.

3. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording operation of an automatic chemical analyzer capable of determining plural components of samples~~a sample~~ by using independent reagents for ~~the respective components of said samples~~, in which said analyzer is provided with a sampling mechanism having a sampling probe that dispenses the samples to reaction vessels and a mechanism for pipetting plural kinds of reagents with a same reagent pipetting probe from a reagent supply to the reaction vessels, said reaction vessels holding a reaction solution of said samples and said reagents that is analyzed and a means for washing at least the reagent pipetting probe, and in order to prevent occurrence of errors of determination due to cross-contamination occurring among the reagents, the analyzer is provided with a function to set determination conditions for judging the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents and to make automatic judgment of

the combination of items involving the cross-contamination,

wherein in order to prevent the occurrence of errors of determination due to generation of new contamination by variation of ~~the state of the apparatus including the state~~ of the washing means, there is installed an operation program according to which the analyzer makes judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination for combinations of the reagents, memorizes the judgment result in relation to the reagent combinations ~~its result~~, compares the judgment result with the judgment result of previously made judgments for the same reagent combination ~~those of the previous judgment~~, and when the results differ more than a predetermined amount ~~certain degree~~, judges that the ~~state of the apparatus including the state of the washing means~~ has changed, and indicates it to the user.

4. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 1, further including an input section ~~which is provided with a function to input the conditions~~ ~~items~~ for the judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination or the predetermined amount of difference in judgment results ~~certain degree occurring among the reagents used~~ as a criteria for the judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents.

5. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 1, further including an input section ~~which is provided with a function to register in advance the conditions~~ ~~items~~ for the judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination or the predetermined amount of difference in judgment results used ~~certain degree~~ as a criteria for the judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents and to judge the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the ~~reagents on the reagent combinations~~ that have ~~has been~~ registered in advance in parallel with the determinations of the components of the samples.

6. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 1, further including an input section ~~which is provided with a function to register an interval at which for measurements in advance and judge~~ the presence or absence of the cross-

contamination occurring among the reagents ~~at the registered interval is determined in~~ parallel with the determinations of the components of the samples.

7. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 1, further including an input section and a processor ~~which is provided with a function to register, in the processor, in relation to the reagent combinations, a measurements item(s) using a of reagent(s) giving an influence, a measurements item(s) using a of reagent(s) receiving the influence and the used amount of the reagent(s) that are used when giving the influence, when said analyzer recognizes the presence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents.~~

8. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 1, further including an input section and a processor ~~which is provided with a function to register in the processor a procedure to be performed, make a registration in a processor so that when said analyzer recognizes the presence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents with a combination of reagents in relation to the reagent combinations, a process for preventing the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents of the reagent combinations that has been registered in advance in a processor is carried out in case of conducting an analysis with the combination of the reagents in the future.~~

9. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 2, further including an input section ~~which is provided with a function to input the conditions items for the judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination or predetermined amount of difference in judgment results the certain degree occurring among the reagents used as a criteria for the judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents.~~

10. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 2, further including an input section ~~which is provided with a function to register in advance the conditions items for the judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination or~~

the predetermined amount of difference in judgment results ~~certain degree occurring among the reagents used~~ as a criteria for the judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents and to judge the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagent combinations ~~on the reagent combination that has that have been~~ registered in advance in parallel with the determinations of the components of the samples.

11. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 2, further including an input section ~~which is provided with a function to register an interval at which for measurements in advance and judge the~~ presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents ~~at the registered interval is determined in parallel with the determinations of the components~~ of the samples.

12. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 2, further including an input section and a processor ~~which is provided with a function to register in the processor, in a processor, a measurements item(s) using a of reagent(s) giving an influence, a measurements item(s) using a of reagent(s) receiving the influence and the used-amount of the reagent(s) that are used when~~ giving the influence, when said analyzer recognizes the presence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents.

13. (Currently Amended) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 2, further including an input section and a processor ~~which is provided with a function to make a registration in a processor so that to register in the processor a procedure to be performed, when said analyzer recognizes the presence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents with a combination of reagents in relation to the reagent combinations, a process for preventing the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents of the reagent combinations that has been registered in advance in a processor is carried out in case of conducting an analysis with the combination of the reagents in the future.~~

14. (New) An automatic chemical analyzer comprising a sample disc having

sample cups containing samples to be analyzed, a reagent disc for carrying reagents, a reaction disc having reaction vessels, a sampling mechanism having a sampling probe that dispenses samples from the sample disc to the reaction vessels, a pipetting mechanism having a reagent probe for pipetting reagents from the reagent disc to the reaction vessels so that a reaction solution of samples and reagents is held in said reaction vessels, a means for washing at least the reagent pipetting probe, and a photometer for measuring absorbance of a reaction solution in the reaction vessel,

wherein determinations of plural components of a sample are determined by using independent reagents for the respective components, plural kinds of reagents are pipetted with said reagent pipetting probe, and in order to prevent occurrence of errors of the determinations due to cross-contamination occurring among the reagents, the analyzer stores predetermined determination conditions for judging the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents with respect to said determination conditions and makes an automatic judgment of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents,

wherein in order to prevent the occurrence of errors of determination due to the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents by variation of the state of the washing means, the analyzer makes judgment on the presence or absence of the cross-contamination for combinations of the reagents used in succession, memorizes the judgment result in relation to combinations of the reagents used in succession, compares the result with previous judgments for the same combinations of the reagents used in succession; and when these results differ more than a certain degree, judges that the state of the washing means has changed, and indicates it to the user.

15. (New) An automatic chemical analyzer according to claim 14, further including an input section to register an interval at which the presence or absence of the cross-contamination occurring among the reagents is determined in parallel with the determinations of the components of the samples.